

**MINUTES
PARK COMMITTEE
Wednesday, October 1, 2014
City Hall, Room 207
5:30 P.M.**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Aldermen Jerry Wiezbiskie, Joseph Moore, Brian Danzinger, and David Nennig

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Dawne Cramer, Dan Ditscheit, James Andersen, Tina Westergaard, Ann Moeller, Marsha Scholes, and Ald. Wery

Approval of the minutes of the meeting of September 10, 2014

A motion was made by Ald. Moore and seconded by Ald. Nennig to approve the minutes of the meeting of September 10, 2014. Motion carried.

Adoption of the Agenda

A motion was made by Ald. Nennig and seconded by Ald. Moore to adopt the agenda of the October 1, 2014, Park Committee meeting. Motion carried.

1. Discussion/Action on the presentation of the revised final concept for the redevelopment of Colburn Pool

Darryl Matzke from Ramaker & Associates – The activity and main pools have been joined with a 30-foot-wide connector with a depth of 3 to 3½ feet. The community room size has been increased 10 feet; now it is about 30 x 25 feet.

Ald. Wiezbiskie thanked D. Matzke for his efforts to incorporate the changes into the final concept. He was pleased with the addition of the movable bridge.

Ald. Moore asked why the measurements were not round numbers, which has been found to be most cost effective in the building trade. D. Matzke said some numbers came out not rounded because of angles and curves they were working with.

Ald. Danzinger questioned if the option to phase in amenities or other infrastructure had been explored further. Staff replied it would be possible to phase out the community room, rental shelter, play area, etc. Because the activity and large pools will be joined, they will share a pump and other equipment, making it difficult to phase out. Staff should try to reuse whatever equipment we can in the final design to save on cost.

Ald. Danzinger thanked D. Matzke for his attention to the needs of the community.

D. Matzke stated the budget is still approximately \$4.5 million after the amendments had been made.

Ald. Nennig asked what D. Matzke's experience has been in the past with projects like this being bid out and coming close to the actual estimate. D. Matzke said all of the numbers have been checked with contractors for actual cost.

A motion was made by Ald. Nennig and seconded by Ald. Moore to open the floor for discussion. Motion carried.

Ald. Wery had met with members of the Colburn Pool Leadership group, and after visualizing the new design while onsite, they felt all of the changes were incorporated to fit the needs/desires of the group.

Ald. Nennig asked if the residents were satisfied with the design for parking. Ald. Wery said they originally had concerns but are more comfortable with the design as shown to date.

Leah Frost, 1665 Patten Street – She was pleased with the final draft; however, she feels the sand play area is not necessary.

A motion was made by Ald. Moore and seconded by Ald. Nennig to return to regular order of business. Motion carried.

Staff handed out the proposed operational budget and comparison to the Park Committee members. There is an increase in expenses from operating the existing Colburn Pool compared to the new concept. A large portion of the increase is due to seasonal salaries for additional lifeguards, facility attendants, and cashiers/concessionaires. Electrical costs factor into the increase in expenses as well.

Staff discussed the revenue portion of the new Colburn Pool. Daily programming activities would increase at the pool, with opportunities to teach additional swim lessons, hold more water fitness classes, and a current channel that could be utilized. These activities could all work in conjunction with open swim. Projected attendance may increase to approximately 21,000 people per season, which is three times our current average. Daily admissions, additional instructional classes, swim team rentals, community room/shelter rentals, and concessions revenues would increase. If the City will be paying for the new Colburn Pool, some revenue from swim team rental/meets will have to come back to us. That will have to be discussed with the swim clubs.

Ald. Moore wanted clarification that these operational numbers were coming strictly from the Parks Department budget, not from bonding. Staff said that was correct.

Staff said cost recovery would be improved if a smaller pool was built. But the neighborhood wants a competitive pool; therefore, the cost recovery is less.

Ald. Nennig asked if staff felt residents/customers would prefer to go to the new Colburn Pool instead of Joannes or Resch Aquatic Centers in the future. Staff would anticipate reduced anticipated revenue at Resch in the 2016 budget if this pool was built.

Ald. Nennig asked if the swim meets utilized the entire pool and if they paid us a fee, etc. Staff responded that research has been done on how other communities handle swim clubs/teams. If the swim club/team has contributed significantly to the pool's cost or maintenance in other communities, they are usually allowed either free or reduced access and also may share revenue. If all funding is coming from the City, the revenue must go back into the pool.

Ald. Wiezbiskie asked if in other communities swim clubs/teams are raising large sums of money at the front end and then donating it to build the pools. He is concerned at the lack of fundraising efforts by our local swim clubs/teams towards the rebuilding of Colburn Pool and hopes this situation turns around. Staff has had several conversations with these clubs pertaining to this issue.

A motion was made by Ald. Moore and seconded by Ald. Nennig to approve the final concept for the redevelopment of Colburn Pool. Motion carried.

2. Discussion/Action on the Parks, Recreation, & Forestry proposed 2015 budget

Staff summarized the proposed 2015 preliminary budget proposal. Our budget had a net increase of \$117,810. We increased \$150,840 in expenses and increased \$33,030 in revenue, which resulted in a 1.6% increase. \$79,670 of our increase comes directly from a 2.5% increase in salary and benefits. The remaining \$38,140 comes from \$20,000 in Wisconsin Park & Recreation Association ticket sales new expense line added that will be offset by \$20,000 of a new revenue line. The remaining \$18,140 is an increase in materials and supplies, pool chemical costs, and utility costs. Areas that were discussed were salaries and benefits, employee-related expenses, services, materials and supplies, operations, and utilities. Staff compared the 2014 and 2015 line items in each category, noting where the budget increased or cuts were recommended.

Ald. Nennig asked if Worker's Compensation is allocated based on experience of the departments. Staff said it was based on a five-year history.

Ald. Danzinger asked how the revenue from the Wildlife Sanctuary 4K program for offsetting copy machine costs will be displayed in the budget. Staff replied it will be shown as revenue for the Wildlife Sanctuary and then transferred.

Ald. Nennig asked where propane was used. Staff said it was used mostly at the Park Shop, various park areas, Triangle Ski Hill Chalet, the shop forklift, heaters for flooding trucks, welding, and heating the Wildlife Sanctuary residence.

Staff reviewed the proposed equipment replacement priorities. Staff requested a total of \$494,050 in equipment replacement.

Ald. Nennig asked if all City equipment was put onto one list and then money is allocated towards those individual items. Staff responded that was correct. A master list of all departments is compiled at which time discussions are held to determine how much funding is allocated to each department.

Ald. Wiezbiskie said staff did a great job in preparing the budget. He believes the budget should be much higher than what it is, and if anything we should be adding to this budget and not consider any possible cuts. Any requested cuts further than what has been presented to the Park Committee tonight would be a slap in the face.

A motion was made by Ald. Danzinger and seconded by Ald. Moore to receive and place on file the summary of the proposed 2015 Parks, Recreation, & Forestry budget. Motion carried.

3. Discussion/Action on the 2015 Community Development Block Grant park proposals

The Parks Department will be allocated \$150,000 from Community Block Grant funding. This funding can only be used in certain areas of the City and must be used for neighborhood enhancements, not large community projects. Staff met with Planning staff to discuss some possible options for this funding. We included a list of parks that are eligible, as well as a list of projects that were discussed as possibilities. After discussing the options with the Planning Department, we recommend the following priorities.

The first priority is replacing the Perkins Park tennis courts for \$120,000. If you refer to the pictures included in your packet, you will notice these courts are in terrible shape:

- Nets are bent and the tops are coming off.
- Fencing is swayed and old.
- Surfacing is terrible and worn; there are many cracks and uneven areas.
- Not ADA-accessible.

We also handed out the new master plan, which shows where the new courts would be located. We would remove the six old courts and replace them with two new courts.

The second priority would be to install an eight-foot-wide asphalt path along the east bank of the East River behind Anne Sullivan School. The neighborhood has created its own pathway which gets quite muddy and worn. The asphalt trail will be a good neighborhood connection to the East River and Baird Creek Trails. The neighborhood has requested this several times, but funding was never available.

A motion was made by Ald. Nennig and seconded by Ald. Moore to approve the staff priority list for the 2015 Community Development Block Grant park proposals and to forward this request to the Redevelopment Authority. Motion carried.

4. Discussion/Action on approving additional funding for new walks in Navarino Park

The funding for these walks is coming from 2013 Community Development Block Grant funding. Due to our engineering shortage, the Planning Department hired a consultant to complete the engineering documents. The Parks Department requested the consultant incorporate the central walk, northern half-loop walk, the playground walk, and a concrete curb around the future playground. The current budget for this project is \$70,000 of Community Development Block Grant funding. The recent engineer estimate to complete all this work is \$89,382.50. If you include a contingency, the total is \$105,000. The options are to either cut some paving out of the scope of work or secure additional funding to install the walks as shown. The Parks Department has \$35,000 available in our bond paving account that we would recommend reassigning to complete this project. There is a desire by the Redevelopment Authority to get this completed this fall, and the project is currently out to bid. Bid opening is scheduled for October 7, 2014. We would not award the construction contract until the additional funding has been approved by the City Council on October 7, 2014. If for whatever reason the additional funding is not approved, we would change order out as much work as needed to get the project within the existing \$70,000 budget. We would like you to approve up to \$35,000 of additional funding to complete this project.

Ald. Nennig asked if there was money allocated to the shelters, splash pad, and playground equipment. Staff said there are funds to bury the utilities, relocate the playground, and install a few walks. The utilities are currently being buried.

A motion was made by Ald. Moore and seconded by Ald. Nennig to approve up to \$35,000 in funding from the bond paving account for the installation of walks at Navarino Park. Motion carried.

5. Director's Report

The asphalt has been installed on the West Side Trail from Military Avenue to Bond Street.

Reconstruction of the boat ramps at the Metro Boat Launch will begin on October 6, 2014. The ramp construction will be phased so that two to three ramps can remain open through the duration of the construction.

The Baird Creek Preservation Foundation coordinated a prairie planting day with 67 high school student volunteers on September 27, 2014. The group has over 7,000 native plants they are trying to get in the ground this year.

The City purchased 517 St. George Street (Parcel 7-669) on September 26, 2014. The DNR will fund 75% of the cost.

The poles for hockey lighting at Red Smith Park have been installed. The lights and related electrical will be installed once the lighting system is delivered.

Thanks to Ameriprise Financial Services for sending volunteers who helped paint two park shelters on September 12, 2014.

The 5th Annual “Going Big in the Bay” skateboarding event will be held on October 4, 2014. Ahman Green is scheduled to attend, along with Shane Heyl and Bryan Herman Emerica pro-skateboarders.

The fall dance “Harvest Hoedown” was held on September 26, 2014, at Bay Beach.

The Friends of the Wildlife Sanctuary’s “Walk for Wildlife” event was very successful with over 400 walkers helping to raise money for our wildlife rehabilitation program.

Tina Westergaard, Special Facilities Manager, is retiring after 33 years of service, and we thank her for her many years of dedication and service to the Parks, Recreation, & Forestry Department.

A motion was made by Ald. Danzinger and seconded by Ald. Moore to receive and place on file the Director’s Report. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Ald. Moore and seconded by Ald. Nennig to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.